Sale of Profit making Industries

†*307. SHRI JANESHWAR MISHRA: Will the Minister of DISINVESTMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Government are considering to sell those industries to the private institutions which are earning profit and are the backbone of the economy of the country, under pressure from foreign investors;

(b) if so, the total number of such companies which Government propose to sell despite their earning profit alongwith details thereof;

(c) whether Government propose to sell National Fertilizer Limited, which is earning profit to the private sector; and

(d) if so, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF DISINVESTMENT (SHRI ARUN SHOURIE): (a) No, Sir. Decision to disinvest is based on considerations like classification of industry as strategic or non-strategic and not on considerations like profitability. Disinvestment in profitable or non-profitable public enterprise is aimed at optimal utilisation of capital, better corporate governance, reduction in commercial risk of tax-payers' money, release of scarce resources for deployment in social sectors like family welfare, health, education and other sectors of greater public interest. Disinvestment of the Government stake in PSUs is carried out in accordance with the declared policy of the Government and through a transparent process involving competitive bidding, which ensures that the best price determined by the market forces is obtained for the stake being disinvested. There is no pressure at all from foreign investors.

(b) Disinvestment process has been going on in respect of 32 companies, out of which as per latest Public Enterprises Survey (2000-2001), the companies with net profit are: — Bharat Petroleum Corporation Ltd., Braithwaite & Co, Engineers India Ltd., Engineering Project (India) Ltd., Hindustan Petroleum Corporation

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.

Ltd., Minerals and Metals Trading Corporation of India Ltd., National Fertilisers Ltd., National Aluminium Company Ltd., National Instruments Ltd., Shipping Corporation of India Ltd., Sponge Iron India Ltd., State Trading Corporation of India Ltd., Tungabhadra Steel Products Ltd., India Petrochemicals Corporation Ltd., Bharat Heavy Plates and Vessels Ltd. and NEPA.

(c) and (d) Yes, Sir. Disinvestment transaction in NFL has already reached an advanced stage.

Disinvestment in PSUs in the non-strategic areas, whether profit-making or loss-making, is being pursued as per the clear disinvestment policy of the Government.

Banning the RIL from Bidding for IPCL

*308. SHRI J. CHITHARANJAN:
SHRI V.V. RAGHAVAN:

Will the Minister of DISINVESTMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Government are considering banning Reliance Industries Ltd. from bidding for the Indian Petrochemicals Ltd. in view of charge sheeting of the firm by CBI; and

(b) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF DISINVESTMENT (SHRI ARUN SHOURIE): (a) No, Sir.

(b) Does not arise.

PHCs in Rajasthan

*309. SHRI SANTOSH BAGRODIA: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) the details of Primary Health Centres run by Government in the State of Rajasthan;

(b) whether Government propose to open more such centres in Rajasthan; and